

NOVEMBER 7, 2007

The Board of County Road Commissioners for Montcalm County held a meeting at its office located in Stanton, Michigan at 10:00 a.m. on November 7, 2007.

Present: Commissioners Dale Linton, Robert Brundage and Donald McCracken; Randy Stearns, Managing Director; Mark Christensen, Superintendent; and Karen Swan, Finance Director-Clerk.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve the minutes of October 17, 2007 as presented. Motion carried.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to schedule a public hearing at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 21, 2007, to review proposed 2008 primary road projects paid for with Federal Aid funds sold to the State of Michigan. Motion carried.

Moved by McCracken, seconded by Brundage, to approve a permit to the property owner at 17065 Blackfoot Trail, Indian Lakes, Winfield Township, allowing the permanent encroachment of a reserve septic drain field as shown on drawing attached to permit application, if needed, in the future. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to accept The Daltons' offer to extend its brush-spraying bid to the 2008 season. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

Manager's Report

- This year's projects are pretty much wrapped up; pavement marking should be done this week.
- The bridge on Blackmer Road north of Condensery Road was paved last weekend; guardrail is being installed tomorrow.
- The drivers have been blading gravel roads; we're trying to get them in shape and keep them there until they freeze tight—as usual, everything depends on the weather.
- Greg Christensen will be going to Genesee County Road Commission tomorrow to show their drivers how to run with a patrol wing. Truck & Trailer is picking up the full cost.

Superintendent's Report

- As Randy said, we're mainly working on gravel roads right now; they are in pretty good shape.
- The culvert crew is replacing culverts on CR601 in anticipation of next year's project.
- We received a TWA from MDOT to do joint repairs on US131. A crew from Kent County Road Commission is doing the work and we have a couple of our employees working with them.
- Foremen, drivers and myself, have been meeting with MDOT and supervisors and drivers from adjoining counties to discuss winter maintenance, state trunkline corridors between counties, and the possibility of doing things more efficiently. Right now it is more of a discussion of ideas, and it looks like changes will be implemented next year. It has been good, productive time.
- It looks like fuel costs are going to kick us in the butt this winter, and I am going to keep an eye on this and try to be cautious with fuel usage.
- The Daily News had a negative editorial comment about the motorists waiting for the traffic light on Satterlee at M57 by WalMart. They were off-base on this, and I've emailed Carl Gustin about it. MDOT did check the loop that's embedded in the pavement, and we moved the stop bar so it's at the correct location. The problem is that people still aren't pulling up to the stop bar so they aren't triggering the light to change.

Clerk's Report

- Completed the annual fringe benefit report, which is based on year ending 9/30/07 costs. Our fringe benefit rate has increased from 85.42 percent to 92.42 percent—mainly due to health insurance and pension costs.
- Surprisingly, the MTF check for November is up seven percent compared to last November's check. The November check is actually September's tax collection, so I'm thinking the good weather we had over Labor Day weekend and the warm weather in general has meant more people on the roads buying more gas. Unfortunately, with the high price of gas that we're experiencing now, I don't think the November check is any indication of what is to come for the rest of the year.

Moved by Brundage, seconded by McCracken, to approve the 11/7/07 bills totaling \$367,688.67 and Payroll #23 totaling \$68,893.22. Motion carried. Roll call: Yes-McCracken, Brundage, Linton.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Chairman

Clerk